

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/807,178  
Response to Final OA dated October 16, 2007

**REMARKS**

Claim 5 has been amended in order to correct a typographical error. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Final Office Action dated **October 16, 2007**.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sassi (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,396) in view of Kang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,146,197). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Regarding Sassi, the Office Action states that the pointing device (7a) comes out of the opening when both cases (2, 3) are opened when the pointing device (7a) is provided in the first case (2) (see FIG. 2 and column 5, lines 58-65). However, it is respectfully submitted that even if the pointing device (7a) is provided in the first case (2), this will only provide an opening forward in the first case (2) for containing the pointing device. The pointing device (7a) would be kept contained and not come out of the opening even when both cases are opened. Sassi does not disclose that there is an opening at (7) when a pointing device is provided in the first case (2) (by keys 8a-8d, for example).

In the present invention, the "opening" is an opening defined in the case that does not have the pointing device (i.e., the second case) and an opening that can contain or release the pointing device depending on whether both cases are opened or closed. This opening has an inner peripheral

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wall to surround the entire pointing device.

Regarding Kang et al. it is respectfully submitted that at column 4, lines 29-52 of Kang et al. it is recited that "the cylindrical hinge housing 30 is provided at one end of the housing 10...", "The cylindrical hinge housing 30 comprises a cylindrical stationary housing 320 and a cylindrical rotary housing 330 rotatably attached to the cylindrical stationary housing 320", and "The cylindrical rotary housing 330 has at least one key 310 arranged on the top surface 30a thereof...". Therefore, Kang et al. does not disclose a pointing device (310) projecting from the surface of the first case, as presently claimed, as rotary housing (330) is not a first case.. The cylindrical rotary housing (330) could not properly correspond to a first case.

Further, in Sassi, the opening that surrounds the entire pointing device (7a) is an opening of the second case that always contains the pointing device (7a). This is not an opening that can contain or release the pointing device depending on whether both cases are opened or closed. Thus, even if Sassi is combined with Kang et al., this will only provide an inner peripheral wall that surrounds the entire pointing device in the first case, which has the pointing device mounted thereon. This combination would not provide an inner peripheral wall to surround the entire pointing device in the second case, which does not have the pointing device mounted thereon. In view of the above remarks, removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kang et al. in view of Sassi. Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested

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in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

The Office Action alleges that Kang et al. teaches "a pointing device (30 or 630) projecting from the front surface of the first case (10 or 600)". As discussed above in a similar arrangement, the alleged "pointing device" (30) or (630) is not projecting from a "first case". As the portion of the device of Kang et al. having alleged pointing device (30) or (630) can not properly be considered a "case", as presently defined. Therefore the presently claimed arrangement is not found.

In view of the above remarks, removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 1-3 and 5, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

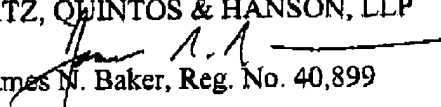
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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